

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 10 as follows:

The carboxylated poly(lactic acid) comprises poly(lactic acid) terminated with a carboxyl group and can be obtained by ring-opening polymerization of lactide (A), in the presence of a hydroxy acid HO-R-COOH serving as a ring opening catalyst as demonstrated schematically by reaction (II), where the carboxylated poly(lactic acid) is compound (C):

